

3/5/18

12:01 P.M.

Chapter No. 313
18/SS01/R371
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SENATE BILL NO. 2043

Originated in Senate Liz Welch Secretary

SENATE BILL NO. 2043

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 35-3-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REMOVE THE LANGUAGE PROHIBITING COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS FROM HOLDING ANY OTHER ELECTIVE OR APPOINTIVE POSITION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 35-3-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

35-3-21. In order to maintain offices and pay personnel for the purpose of assisting all residents of the State of Mississippi who served in the military or naval forces of the United States during any war, their relatives, beneficiaries or dependents, to receive from the United States any and all compensation, hospitalization, insurance or other aid or benefits to which they may be entitled under existing or hereafter enacted laws of the United States, the boards of supervisors in the various counties in the state are hereby authorized and empowered, in their discretion, to expend out of the general county fund, or special veterans' fund herein authorized to be set up, or from both of

such funds, such monies necessary to defray the office operating expenses and salary of the county veteran service officers.

Two (2) or more counties may, upon resolution duly adopted by the board of supervisors of each of such counties, agree to establish one (1) veteran service office for all of such counties. When two (2) or more counties enter into such an agreement, each county shall pay such amount mutually agreed upon and duly adopted by resolution of the respective boards of supervisors.

County veteran service officers shall be (a) honorably discharged or honorably released veterans of any war or police action in which the Armed Forces of the United States have been, are or shall be committed for action; (b) the surviving spouse or child of any such deceased veteran; or (c) any person employed as a county veteran service officer in any county of this state on March 30, 1990. From and after July 1, 1990, county veteran service officers shall be certified by the Mississippi State Veterans' Affairs Board which, among any other criteria it may establish, shall require such officers to (a) attend at least one (1) of the two (2) annual training programs provided for such officers and (b) successfully complete a written examination each year on the duties and responsibilities of and assistance available to such officers and veterans. The programs shall be developed by the State Veterans' Affairs Board. The program shall include a period of instruction which shall be not more than three (3) days for veteran service officers receiving initial

certification, and not more than two (2) days for veteran service officers being recertified. County veteran service officers who annually receive and complete such instruction in a manner satisfactory to the Veterans' Affairs Board and in accordance with this section shall be certified by the board. No county veteran service officer shall be entitled to receive any compensation for his services, to which he is otherwise entitled by law, unless he is annually certified by the board.

County veteran service officers may be employed, in the discretion of the boards of supervisors, either full time or part time * * *.

The boards of supervisors of the various counties are further authorized and empowered to pay all necessary and actual expenses of county veteran service officers who attend a school of instruction within the State of Mississippi for such county veteran service officers.

It shall also be the duty of the boards of supervisors to aid the United States to defeat all unjust claims for aid or benefit therefrom.

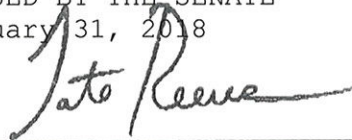
Such expenditures may be made by the several counties acting alone, or in cooperation with other counties, and in cooperation with any federal or state agency carrying out such purposes.

In the event that the general revenues of the county levied under and within the limits of existing taxing statutes are not sufficient to pay the expenses authorized herein, the board of

supervisors may, in its discretion, levy an additional tax not to exceed one (1) mill on all taxable property in the county to defray such expenses or any part thereof. Any tax levy made under authority of this chapter shall not be considered in refunding homestead exemption losses under Title 27, Chapter 33, Mississippi Code of 1972.

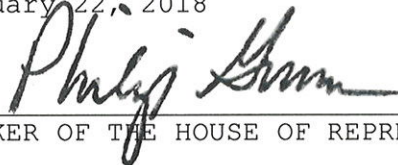
SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2018.

PASSED BY THE SENATE
January 31, 2018



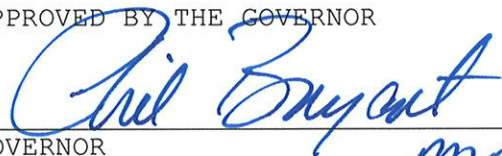
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 22, 2018



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR



GOVERNOR

March 5, 2018
12:01pm